

## Practice

**1** Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) That can't have been/shouldn't have been Nick that you saw.
- b) You must have given/might have given me a hand!
- c) I caught a later train because I had to see/must have seen a client.
- d) I suppose Bill should have lost/might have lost his way.
- e) I didn't refuse the cake, as it should have been/would have been rude.
- f) I don't know who rang, but it could have been/must have been Jim.
- g) It was odd that you should have bought/would have bought the same car.
- h) I asked them to leave but they might not/wouldn't go.
- i) It's a pity you didn't ask because I can't help/could have helped you.
- j) It's your own fault, you can't have/shouldn't have gone to bed so late.

**2** Complete each sentence using one of the phrases from the box.

can't have	must have	<del>shouldn't have</del>	may not have
may have	shouldn't have	can't have	ought to have
didn't need to	shouldn't have		

- a) You and your big mouth! It was supposed to be a secret. You shouldn't have told her!
- b) The plane is late. It ..... landed by now.
- c) You ..... met my brother. I haven't got one!
- d) There is only one explanation. You ..... left your keys on the bus.
- e) You ..... heard me right. I definitely said 204525.
- f) The meat is a bit burnt. You ..... cooked it for so long.
- g) I'm sorry. I accept I ..... been a little bit rude.
- h) You really ..... taken so much trouble over me.
- i) Was it really necessary? You ..... tell the police, you know.
- j) Keep your fingers crossed! The traffic warden ..... noticed the car's parking ticket has run out!

**3** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

- a) It wouldn't have been right to leave you to do all the work on your own.  
**couldn't**  
 I *couldn't have left you to do* ..... all the work on your own.
- b) Perhaps they didn't notice the tyre was flat.  
**might**  
 They ..... the tyre was flat.
- c) All that trouble I went to wasn't necessary in the end.  
**needn't**  
 I ..... all that trouble.
- d) Apparently someone has borrowed the cassette player.  
**have**  
 Someone ..... the cassette player.
- e) I'm disappointed that you didn't back me up!  
**might**  
 You ..... me up!
- f) Our worrying so much was a waste of time.  
**needn't**  
 We ..... so much.
- g) It's just not possible for the cat to have opened the fridge.  
**possibly**  
 The cat ..... the fridge.
- h) It would have been possible for Helen to take us in her car.  
**could**  
 Helen ..... us a lift.
- i) It's possible that the last person to leave didn't lock the door.  
**might**  
 The last person ..... the door unlocked.
- j) School uniform wasn't compulsory at my school.  
**wear**  
 We ..... school uniform at my school.

**4 Complete each sentence by writing one word in each space. Contractions (can't) count as one word.**

- a) I *could* ..... have become a millionaire, but I decided not to.
- b) You ..... have been here when Helen told the boss not to be so lazy! It was great!
- c) Peter wasn't here then, so he ..... have broken your vase.
- d) I ..... have bought that car, but I decided to look at a few others.
- e) If you felt lonely, you ..... have given me a ring.
- f) Don't take a risk like that again! We ..... have lost because of you.
- g) It's been more than a week! You ..... have had some news by now!
- h) We were glad to help. We ..... have just stood by and done nothing.
- i) You really ..... have gone to so much trouble!
- j) I ..... have thought that it was rather difficult.

**5 Correct any errors in these sentences. Some sentences are correct.**

- a) Surely you mustn't have forgotten already! *can't* .....
- b) Even Paul couldn't have foreseen what was coming next. ....
- c) Frances might not have understood what you said. ....
- d) It was funny that she should have remembered me. ....
- e) Harry may have won the match with a bit more effort. ....
- f) You must have told me you had already eaten. ....
- g) Look, there's £30 in my wallet. I shouldn't have gone to the bank after all.  
.....
- h) You mustn't have been so unkind! .....
- i) I couldn't have managed without you. ....
- j) I have no idea who it was, but I suppose it would have been Ann. ....

**6 Underline the most suitable adverb for each space.**

- a) Someone obviously/currently/fortunately must have picked it up by mistake.
- b) He could really/cheerfully/easily have stolen the painting without anyone knowing.
- c) I may surely/well/clearly have made a mistake.
- d) You really/clearly/needlessly shouldn't have spent so much on my present.
- e) Bill rarely/simply/certainly wouldn't listen to anything we said.
- f) I couldn't just/yet/already have left without saying a word.
- g) Certainly/Rarely/Surely you can't seriously believe that I am guilty!
- h) I opened the window, I greatly/surely/simply had to get some fresh air.
- i) I still/unfortunately/surely couldn't have come to your party.
- j) How dangerous! You could still/strongly/well have been injured!

**7** Complete each space in the text with an appropriate modal verb. Some are negative.

Dear Toshie,

Thanks for sending back the book I lent you. You (1) *can't have* ..... read it already! You must be the world's fastest reader! Hope you enjoyed it.

Well, the big news is, I decided not to go to Italy to take up my job offer. Basically, moving there (2) ..... meant a lot of upheaval and frankly I couldn't face the hassle. Maybe I (3) ..... just gone, and been a bit more adventurous, and for sure, I've got mixed feelings about it, as if part of me wanted to go. Who knows, I (4) ..... met the man of my dreams! But I didn't take the decision lightly. I (5) ..... spent several weeks thinking about nothing else. Anyway, what's done is done.

My other news concerns my Dad. You remember I was getting very worried because he'd been having dizzy spells and feeling all light-headed. Well, I (6) ..... worried – he's been diagnosed as suffering from low blood pressure, so he's on medication for that. The doctor said it's possible that his vegetarian diet (7) ..... set it off. It's a pity you weren't here! You (8) ..... been able to help Dad, with your interest in holistic medicine. You (9) ..... given him some of your aromatherapy treatments.

Anyway, hope to see you again before too long. By the way, guess who's getting married in June? Brenda! I (10) ..... known it would be her! It's typical; that girl has all the luck!

Bye!

Love from, Sue

→ SEE ALSO

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**Grammar 11:** Modals: present and future  
**Grammar 15:** Consolidation 3